

APRIL 8, 2003 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

COMMENTS FOR THE EPA LISTENING SESSION ON THE ELDERLY  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY--DEATH  
AND DISEASE FROM TOXICS RELEASED INTO THE AIR AND  
WATER

THE CLEAN AIR ACT ROLLBACKS AND THE CLEAR SKIES INITIATIVE PROPOSED BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WILL ALTER THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE EPA-- TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH FROM TOXIC RELEASES INTO OUR AIR BY UNREGULATED DIRTY COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS. THE BUSH REGULATORY CHANGES WOULD REVERSE EPA'S PRIMARY MISSION TO ONE OF PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF POLLUTERS WHOSE PRODUCTS AUTOS, ELECTRIC POWER, CHEMICALS AND SO ON, RELEASE TOXINS INTO OUR AIR THAT KILL 60,000 OF US OLDER FOLKS EACH YEAR. THOSE WITH HEART AND LUNG DISEASE WILL DIE PREMATURELY BY MONTHS AND EVEN YEARS. OUR RIGHT TO BREATHE HEALTHY AIR WILL BE REPLACED BY THE RIGHT TO KILL US TO IMPROVE THEIR BOTTOM LINE.

POLLUTERS EXCUSE THE DEATHS BY SAYING IT ONLY SHORTENS LIVES BY ONLY A FEW DAYS, DEFINING IT AS HARVESTING. POLLUTERS CALL THE MULTIPLE MEDICAL STUDIES IN THE US AND EUROPE "JUNK SCIENCE!"

DIRTY COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS, WHO KILL US OLD FOLKS, HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES, IN THE WHITE HOUSE. THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET HAS A NEW BUREAUCRAT, WHOSE CALCULATOR HOLDS LIFE AND DEATH OVER US, IS JOHN D. GRAHAM. HEADING THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS, IT IS HE WHO THE EPA MUST OBEY.

WHY IS GRAHAM SO POWERFUL? HE HAS FORCED THE EPA TO DEVALUE A HUMAN LIFE FROM 6.1 MILLION DOWN TO 3.7 MILLIONS DOLLARS FOR THOSE UNDER AGE 70, TO 2.3 MILLION FOR THOSE OF US OVER SEVENTY--A 63 PERCENT REDUCTION.

THE ELDERLY HAVE BEEN DISCOUNTED SO THAT IT TIPS THE SCALE IN COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS ON THE SIDE OF THE POLLUTORS COST OF COMPLIANCE WITH CLEAN AIR REGULATIONS.

ARE YOU INSULTED AND ANGERED BY SUCH CALLOUSNESS FROM YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT?

THE DECEMBER 14, 2000 ISSUE OF THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE IN SUMMARIZING THE REPEATED STUDIES IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE "... SUPPORT THE EVIDENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CONCENTRATIONS OF (ULTRAFINE) PARTICULATE AIR POLLUTION AND THE MORTALITY RATE (30,000 YEARLY) ARE CONSISTENT, IS NOT AFFECTED BY DIFFERENCES IN STATISTICAL METHODS AND CAN BE GENERALIZED." WHAT JUNK SCIENCE?

THE MONTICELLO POWER PLANT IN NORTH EAST TEXAS IS ONE OF THE DIRTIEST POLLUTERS IN THE NATION. IT USES LIGNITE FOR FUEL KNOWN TO BE THE DIRTIEST COAL. MICROSCOPIC PARTICULATES FROM THIS NON-REGULATED PLANT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 65 EXCESS PREMATURE DEATHS EACH YEAR IN MARSHALL-LONGVIEW-TYLER. AT A DEATH RATE 56/100,000 ADULTS A YEAR IT LEADS THE NATION.

THE EPA'S INITIATIVE ON THE ELDERLY SHOULD BE ENTIRELY FOCUSED ON STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW SOURCE REVIEW AND STRENGTHENING BOTH THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT AND THE CLEAN WATER ACT REGULATIONS. THE CONSTITUTION GIVES US OLD FOLKS EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS AND THE U.S. SUPREME COURT IN MANY RULINGS HAS AFFIRMED OUR EQUAL PROTECTIONS UNDER THE LAW UNTIL WE TAKE OUR LAST BREATH.

SIGNED ON 4-8-2003  
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I AM AN ACTIVE CLEAN AIR ADVOCATE  
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